

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ADDIS 10244 141012Z

14

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-13 AGR-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

STR-04 CEA-01 /115 W

----- 100955

R 140846Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 10244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ET

SUBJ: PMAC CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR'S DAY SPEECH

SUMMARY: SPEAKING OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION ON ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR'S DAY, SEPTEMBER 11, PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE MADE MAJOR ADDRESS ON INTERNAL POLICY. ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED NO DRAMATIC DEPARTURES IN IMPLEMENTING SOCIALIST REVOLUTION, SPEECH WAS NEVERTHELESS NOTABLE FOR TEFERI'S FRANK ADMISSION OF MANY PROBLEMS WHICH ETHIOPIA HAS FACED. END SUMMARY.

1. SEPTEMBER 11 RADIO-TV SPEECH REPRESENTED STOCKTAKING OF PAST YEAR AND OFFERED SHORT AND LONG-TERM GUIDELINES FOR FURTHER NATIONAL PROGRESS. TEFERI PAID TRIBUTE TO POOR FARMERS, SOLDIERS, WORKERS, AEMETCHA STUDENTS, PRO-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ADDIS 10244 141012Z

GRESSIVE TEACHERS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE PERISHED IN STRUGGLE

AGAINST REACTIONARY ELEMENTS. HE CLAIMED THAT ELIMINATION OF FEUDALISM HAD REMOVED BARRIER HITHERTO EXISTING BETWEEN PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS AND WORKING MASSES, THEREBY ENABLING BOTH GROUPS TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER. AT SAME TIME, 1975 PROCLAMATION OF LAND REFORM, WHILE MAKING ALL RURAL LANDS COLLECTIVE PROPERTY OF ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE, HAD PRECIPITATED LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE BETWEEN REVOLUTIONARY FORCES AND "FEUDALISTS, IMPERIALISTS, AND THEIR REMNANTS." VICTORIES ACHIEVED ON RURAL FRONT AND THEN THROUGH NATIONALIZING URBAN LAND AND EXTRA HOUSES DID NOT PERMIT COMPLACENCY, HOWEVER, BUT HAD TO BE GUARANTEED THROUGH ESTABLISHMENT OF MORE ORGANIZED, PREPARED, AND SELF-ARMED PEOPLE'S MILITIA TO RESIST REACTIONARY FORCES. TEFERI CITED SUCCESS RURAL PEASANT ASSOCIATIONS HAD ACHIEVED IN STIMULATING POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS, IMPROVING EFFICIENCY OF LOCAL FARM PRODUCTION, AND GUIDING FARMERS'S STRUGGLE TO IMPLEMENT REFORMS.

2. DISCUSSING LABOR, TEFERI EXPLAINED THAT OLD LABOR LAW HAD BEEN DISCARDED BECAUSE IT WAS INHERITED FROM FEUDAL SYSTEM AND WAS TAILORED TO SUIT INTERESTS OF PROPRIETED CLASS. UNDER NEW PROCLAMATION 1,207 LABOR UNIONS WITH TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 273,982 PERSONS HAVE BEEN SET UP SO FAR. THEIR ROLE WAS TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM OF NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION, A TASK DEMANDING BITTER STRUGGLE, DISCIPLINE, AND HIGH SPIRIT. HOW TO AWAKEN AND ORGANIZE MASSES TO ESTABLISH REVOLUTIONARY NATIONAL FRONT TO CARRY OUT THIS PURPOSE WAS MOST PRESSING NATIONAL ISSUE. FRONT IN TURN MUST BE LED BY STRONG PARTY OF PROLETARIAT TO TAKE REVOLUTION TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION. TODAY, HOWEVER, EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING WORKING CLASS PARTY AND PROPAGATING PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM HAVE NOT BEEN TOTALLY SATISFACTORY, ALTHOUGH REVOLUTIONARY DISCUSSION FORUMS HAVE BEEN SET UP AND AN IDEOLOGICAL SCHOOL OPENED.

3. MEANWHILE, TEFERI SAID, REACTIONARIES HAD STEPPED UP POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SABOTAGE, VAINLY ATTEMPTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ADDIS 10244 141012Z

TO CAUSE HARVEST DECLINE, TO CAUSE PRICES TO RISE, TO CREATE SHORTAGES OF ESSENTIAL GOODS, AND INCITE MASSES TO REBEL AGAINST THEIR OWN REVOLUTION. THEY HAVE TRIED TO CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT THEY WERE ALREADY SATISFACTORILY ORGANIZED AND AWAKENED.

4. TURNING TO REVOLUTIONS'S ACHIEVEMENTS, TEFERI CLAIMED THAT MORE THAN 5.5 MILLION RURAL FAMILIES WERE NOW

ORGANIZED INTO FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY ACTIVE IN LIQUIDATING REACTIONARIES ON THEIR OWN INITIATIVE. OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE YEAR INCLUDED CREATION OF NEW SETTLEMENTS FOR 12,000 LANDLESS FAMILIES, URBAN AND RURAL SCHOOL AND HEALTH CLINIC CONSTRUCTION, 637 KM. OF NEW ROAD CONSTRUCTION, DROUGHT RESETTLEMENT. AT SAME TIME SABOTAGE EFFORTS OF WELL-TO-DO AND GOVERNMENT'S MEASURES TO QUELL REACTIONARY OPPOSITION HAD RESULTED IN HIGH MANPOWER AND FINANCIAL EXPENSES. LACK OF SKILLED AND POLITICALLY CONSCIOUS PERSONNEL HAD ALSO DELAYED IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT DIRECTIVES. ADDRESSING INFLATION, TEFERI ADMITTED THAT, WHILE LAST YEAR'S HARVEST HAD IMPROVED OVER PREVIOUS DROUGHT YEARS, URBAN GRAIN STOCKS REMAINED LOW, AND COST OF LIVING KEPT SOARING. HE ATTRIBUTED THIS TO INCREASED CONSUMPTION BY FARMERS THEMSELVES, GOVERNMENT PURCHASES TO ALLEVIATE HUNGER IN DROUGHT AREAS, "ECONOMIC SABOTEURS AND PROFITEERS," AND "HISTORIC DEPENDENCY OF ETHIOPIAN ECONOMY ON WESTERN ECONOMY." HE ALSO ADMITTED THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WAS STILL HIGH, OWING TO CONDITIONS INHERITED FROM PREVIOUS REGIME AND UNAVOIDABLE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DURING TRANSITIONAL PERIOD.

6. TEFERI LISTED SHORT-TERM PRIORITY PROBLEMS AS UNEMPLOYMENT, SHORTAGES OF GOODS AND GRAINS, INFLATION, FINDING WAYS TO INCREASED PRODUCTION AND TO STRENGTHEN NATIONALIZED MEANS OF PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, AND SERVICES, AND EXPANSION OF CAPITAL ACCUMULATION. AMONG LONG-TERM PRIORITIES, AGRICULTURE HEADED LIST, WITH ONE OMINOUS REFERENCE TO NEED TO "REORGANIZE SMALL PRIVATE FARMS ON SCIENTIFIC BASIS TO PAVE WAY FOR LARGE-SCALE SOCIALIST AGRICULTURE." HE PROMISED GOVERNMENT AS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ADDIS 10244 141012Z

SISTANCE TO STIMULATE COTTAGE INDUSTRIES, EXPANSION OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT, STEADY FLOW OF ESSENTIAL GOODS AT REASONABLE PRICES UNDER CONTROL OF STATE TRADING CORPORATIONS AND COOPERATIVE SHOPS, CREDITS FOR SMALL PRIVATE HOUSING STARTS, PROVISION OF SCHOOL CURRICULUMS ALONG SOCIALIST LINES, AND IMPROVED HEALTH SERVICES.

7. ENTIRE SPEECH CONTAINED IMPLIED UNDERTONE OF LAMENT THAT MANY OF COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS RESULTED FROM MASSES' FAILURE TO COMPREHEND BENEFITS WHICH REVOLUTION OFFERED THEM AND HIS RECOGNITION THAT MUCH POLITICAL REEDUCATION WAS REQUIRED BEFORE ETHIOPIA'S PROBLEMS COULD BE RESOLVED. ONE CURIOUS FORMULATION WITH CONCEIVABLE IMPLICATIONS FOR U.S. STATE THAT "THE FORMER REGIME HAD WEAKENED

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE COUNTRY BY COMPLETELY RELYING
ON FORIEGN ASSISTANCE." ESSENTIALLY, HOWEVER, SPEECH
WAS APPEAL TO POPULATION FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF
EPMG PROGRAM.
TIENKEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, SPEECHES, POLITICAL SITUATION, NATIONAL UNIFICATION, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS10244
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760346-0373
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760965/aaaaccxy.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PMAC CHAIRMAN'S NEW YEAR'S DAY SPEECH SUMMARY: SPEAKING OVER RADIO AND TELEVISION ON ETHIOPIAN NEW YEAR'S DAY, SEPTEMBER 11, PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI
TAGS: PINT, ET, (TEFERI BANTI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006